



You'll understand

Old Blood Noise Endeavors conjures up a different delay

BY WADE BURDEN

IF THE EVER-UNIQUE Old Blood Noise Endeavors pedals tell a story, then The Mondegreen Delay is a different kind of story. While the Haunt was occultic horror; the song of the strange cult that danced around flames deep in the woods, summoning Cthulhu; and the Procession, Dark Star, and Reflector have all been Sci-fi mixed with more Lovecraft-inspired tales of old gods and unseen dread coming from beyond the stars... the Mondegreen is another thing altogether. It is sparse and austere, like the opening to one of Sergio Leone's visions of the American West. Beautiful and not quite right. At times a touch threadbare or downright goofy, but always cool. Drenched in Ennio Morricone's unique and lonesome sound. And in the moment when you feel it's taking a violent turn toward a Peckinpah film, it reels itself in. The Mondegreen screams

cinematic to me. A tool for painting vast rhythmic landscapes and layering an undercurrent of dark emotions. A means of communicating without words.

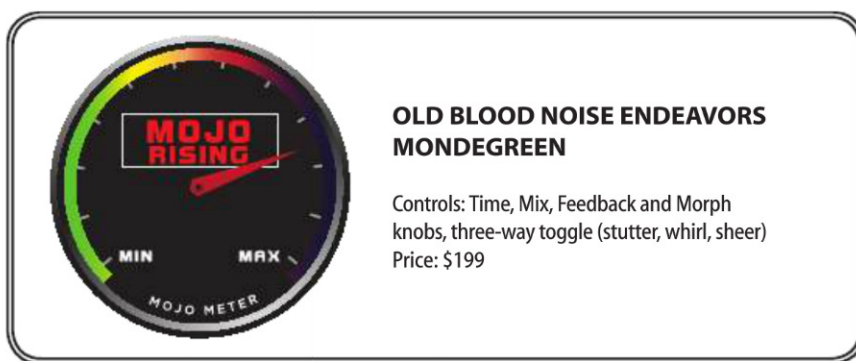
A mondegreen is a misunderstood or misinterpreted word or phrase resulting from a misheard lyric. It means finding out that you've had the words to a song wrong for years. Not quite able to make out the correct word, your mind plugs in a similar sounding one that somewhat makes sense and changes the meaning. The OBNE Mondegreen is in part a delay; but really it's more than a delay. It misinterprets your notes, then adds swirling modulation, or chops them up, or feeds them back to you with shimmering orchestral-like octaves. The Mondegreen doesn't go where you expect it to at first, but it always remains musical. Even when its digital processor is pushed to its max and

the repeats take on a robotic and thin quality as digital distortion is mixed into the notes while they break apart, it always stays musical. It always makes sense.

Simply put, the Mondegreen is a digital delay fed into modulation. In the center, there is a three-way switch labeled Stutter, Whirl, and Sheer. The Stutter setting feeds the delay through a tremolo from subtle to percussive - it chops up your repeats. The Whirl setting is a modulated delay with chorus on the wet signal. Sheer setting adds increasing octaves onto your repeats until it takes on the qualities of an endless array of space age pipe organs.

On the top left there is a Time knob that controls the delay time. It varies between the three modulation settings, but the delay can get very long — all the way out to 1850 ms. On the top right there is

a Feedback knob that controls the delay feedback from one repeat to very long trails. The Mondegreen will not self oscillate. For all it's weirdness, it is a gentleman; always sitting beneath your playing, always allowing you to be in control. On the bottom left there is a Mix knob that goes from 100% dry to 100% wet. On the bottom right there is a knob labeled Morph. Morph controls the depth of the modulation. When the pedal is in the Sheer setting, it barely adds modulation to your repeats. In Whirl and Stutter, it becomes a very powerful control, shaping the intensity of the modulation and tremolo. On the side, OBNE has been kind enough to give us an expression input, so that we can ride an expression pedal manipulating the Time or Morph setting as we play. Whether Time or Morph is controlled by the expression input



OLD BLOOD NOISE ENDEAVORS MONDEGREEN

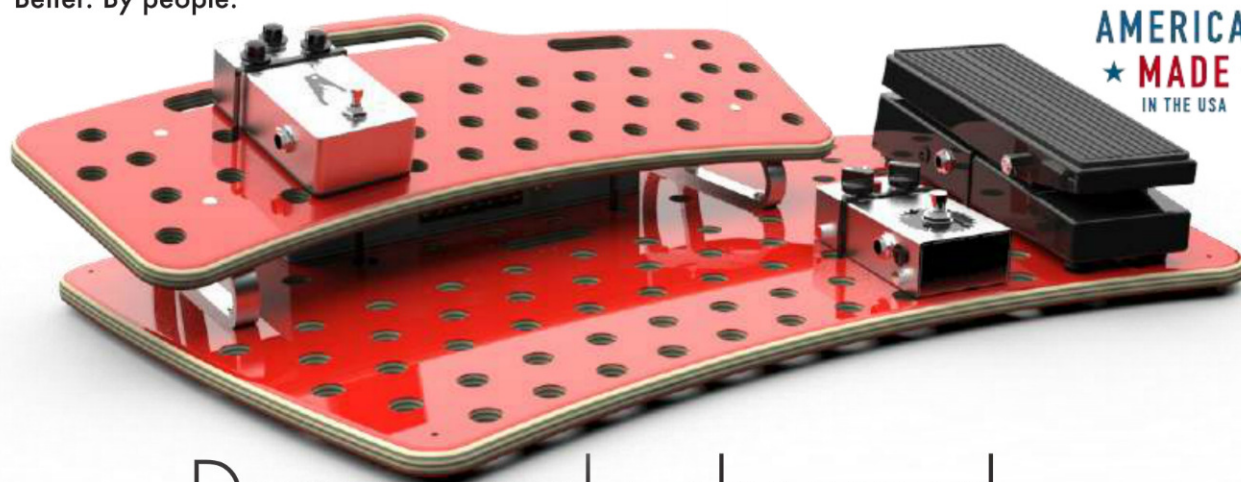
Controls: Time, Mix, Feedback and Morph
knobs, three-way toggle (stutter, whirl, sheer)
Price: \$199

can be selected via an internal dip switch, which comes preset to control the Time.

I find the Mondegreen most interesting with all the controls set nearly to 100% while playing intermittently and allowing it to feed back my minimal input over and over again, filling the spaces between the notes with its own interpretation, and allowing it to dictate where I go from there. For

me, there is something about the Mondegreen that demands to be used alone. It is perfect for crafting soundtracks to accompany lonesome cowboys riding slowly into the sunset of the Italian countryside... but maybe that's just my mood tonight. Maybe the Mondegreen will be something completely different for you. However you use it, I promise it will be interesting. 🌀

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